

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

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Micro o



Normal O

The "Micro o" Dime - An Available Rarity

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## JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series within the numismatic community.

Steve Epstein, Publisher - Barber Coin Collectors Journal

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### ON THE COVER:

#### The "Micro o" Dime - An Available Rarity

For those who don't know, mintmarks are not part of the original die but are added to the die separately. On Barbers, the size of the mintmarks varied by denomination depending on how much space was available in the area where the mintmark was to appear. Ironically, the dime had a larger mintmark than the quarter because there was more room under the dimes' wreath (and the tail of the half) than under the tail of the quarter. This little known fact set the stage for one of the most fascinating varieties of the entire Barber series, the micro "o" mintmark.

There are two known varieties of the micro "o" mintmark; the 1892 half and the 1905 dime. In this story, we're focusing on the Dime because unlike the half, you're more likely to run across a 1905 micro "o" dime than its half dollar counterpart. The reason for this appears to be that the mintmark on the 1892 half was caught before many were made, while the error occurred on the 1905 dime during the entire life of one die. However, considering that this famous variety wasn't discovered until 1944 by Howard R. Newcomb (Numismatic Review, March, 1944, pg. 22), a large majority come heavily circulated. In fact, Walter Breen in his incredible work "Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins", states that the 1905 "micro o" dime is prohibitively rare in grades above VF.

Although not microscopic in the real sense, the "micro o" mintmark is considerably smaller in size than the authorized "o" mintmark, and is readily noticed with the naked eye.

It doesn't yet appear in most price guides, but commands a considerable premium when traded. Low grade specimens run between two and three times the cost of a regular issue in the same grade, and a choice AU recently traded for five times the value of its regular issue counterpart. The coin

appears considerably undervalued in Fine or better given its rarity and easy detection. As Barber varieties continue to become more popular, this is certainly one that deserves more attention. What's even more exciting to the Barber enthusiast is that they can be found for your collection.

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Articles, questions, comments and ads are welcome and should be forwarded to:

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Only ads for Barber coins and associated supplies are permitted, although advertisers may provide generic descriptions of any other coins they sell. Mail bid advertising cannot be accepted.

The Publisher reserves the right to edit or decline advertising that is in conflict with BCCS bylaws. Unless otherwise specified in the ad, advertisers must accept the return of merchandise in the original holders that bears a postmark within 7 business days of the receipt by the customer. Any purchaser wanting to get an independent opinion of any coin must first notify the advertiser within the applicable time that the merchandise can be returned.

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## MEMBERSHIP TOPS 300

As this issue goes to press, BCCS membership stands at 302. This is nearly double the number of members we reported in the last Journal just three months ago, with new membership applications arriving daily.

The keen interest in our Society is, I feel, a strong indication that there are many avid Barber enthusiasts across the country. As word reaches more people, we expect our membership to continue to increase. A large membership will more rapidly promote appreciation of Barber coinage, and more information (as well as hopefully Barbers) will become available. Rising membership will also provide the necessary income to provide 4 quality journals a year.

But our real success will be our ability to retain our members, and membership renewals will be the key.

I feel if we can continually provide a quality publication and make our Society's Bylaws a reality, we should have no problem keeping our members and signing up new ones.

Your help is appreciated. If you belong to a coin club or know of anyone who may be interested in joining, let me know, and we'll send them membership information.

In the meantime, I want to personally thank all our Charter Members for their confidence in our Society. I will continue to do my utmost to serve you in accordance with our Bylaws, and to make your membership interesting, beneficial and enjoyable.

The time for Barbers is here!

Your Publisher

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## An Editorial on Grading

When all is said and done, the value of a coin is basically determined by two factors; its scarcity and grade. For many years determining scarcity was guess work. Oh, one could make a judgment from official mintages, but we all came to learn how circulation and melting patterns could easily make higher mintage coins scarcer than lower ones. It wasn't until the 1980's, however, with the advent of the slabbing services, that we are finally on the threshold of more accurately determining scarcity of uncirculated coins. Alongside that, is our Society's effort to develop a scarcity guide for circulated Barber coinage, as well. It won't be too long before most will feel very comfortable that the scarcity of a Barber coin in any grade will accurately reflect its value.

Grading, however, is another matter. Most experts would agree that with universally consistent grading standards standing the test of time, grading would disappear as an issue. Now, we have come a long way with slabs. But the concept is far from universally accepted, and the fear still lingers that grading standards will change again in the future, thereby reducing the value of one's holdings. This is, in fact, a potential threat if computer grading is perfected. Such a grading technique could easily contradict much of what the naked eye had previously graded.

But the Barber Society cannot stand still. One of our objectives is to promote standard grading of Barbers. To our advantage is the commonly held perception that Barbers are relatively easy to grade. However, grading inconsistencies linger. Oftentimes, such inconsistencies can be attributed to the fluctuation in the coins' striking characteristics from year to year, and from mint to mint. "O" mint weak striking characteristics are an example.

Our society has begun publishing a series of articles on grading Barbers from Dave Lawrence, a Barber specialist who was selected because he uses Barber grading diagnostics representative of a majority of Barber dealer specialists. These diagnostics are intended to compliment the most widely-accepted grading standards in the industry; namely, the "A.N.A. Official Grading Standards For U.S. Coins" - section on Barbers published by Western Publishing. When used together, A.N.A. grading standards provide the basic foundation for distinguishing between grades, while Dave Lawrence's guidelines typically describe striking characteristics of each year, mint, or denomination.

In this issue of the Journal, thanks to permission from both the A.N.A. and Western Publishing, we've reprinted the A.N.A.'s grading standards in their entirety. Since the standards for quarters and halves are virtually identical, we've consolidated their grading criteria from two guides. Hopefully, Barber enthusiasts and dealers alike will keep these guides handy when involved in transactions. The relative ease of grading Barbers coupled with these very descriptive standards should hopefully minimize differences of opinion in all but a very few cases.

For most of us, dealers and collectors alike, the pursuit of Barbers represents a considerable investment in time and money. Working together as a society, we have a golden opportunity to manage our investment to a successful outcome by living up these standards at all times. It truly is up to each of us.

## GRADING BARBERS - PART II

### David Lawrence

#### VF (VERY FINE):

This grade is determined almost exclusively from the obverse. On the obverse, "Liberty" is complete or virtually so (sometimes the left foot of R is weak in quarters). Liberty's wreath is 3/4 full, but will lack 3- dimensionality. On the reverse, in dimes, corn kernals begin to show. In quarters and halves, look for greater detail in the eagle's wings. NOTE - "O" mint coins are often weakly struck and will lack some of the detail listed here.

#### XF (EXTREMELY FINE):

Obverse -- the band under "Liberty" is complete for dimes, quarters before 1900, and halves. For later quarters (1900 Type II through 1916) the band often has a break in the RT region. Coins show 3 dimensionality on the forehead and Liberty's wreath. Luster may show in the stars.

Reverse -- For dimes, the corn kernals will be well defined (except some O mints). For quarters and halves, the uppermost feather of each wing will be completely outlined.

#### AU (ABOUT UNCIRCULATED):

Surface is important in this grade. Coins with luster and nice surfaces are AU even if some details are lacking due to strike. AU55 coins are fully lustrous and show only the slightest friction.

Obverse -- The hair above Liberty's forehead shows detail. Unless dark or harshly cleaned, there should be mint luster in the stars and field.

Reverse - Details are sharp unless poorly struck. For quarters and halves, the eagle's wing tips are complete. Luster should be present as described above.

**"Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for U.S. Coins"  
Barber Dimes, Quarters & Halves  
In Circulated Grades**

Section on Barbers reprinted from the book bearing the same name with the permission of Western Publishing Company and the American Numismatic Association.

**BARBER DIMES**

**ABOUT UNCIRCULATED** Small trace of wear visible on highest points.

**AU-55** Choice

Obverse: Only a trace of wear shows on highest points of hair below LIBERTY.

Reverse: A trace of wear shows on ribbon bow, wheat grains, and leaf near O.

Three-quarters of the mint luster is still present.

**AU-50** Typical

Obverse: Traces of wear show on cheek, top of forehead, and hair below LIBERTY.

**EXTREMELY FINE** Very light wear on only the highest points.

**EF-45** Choice

Obverse: Slight wear shows on high points of upper leaves, cheek, and hair above forehead. LIBERTY is sharp and band edges are bold.

Reverse: High points of wreath and bow are worn, but all details are clearly defined.

Part of the mint luster is still present.

**EF-40** Typical

Obverse: Light wear shows on leaves, cheek, cap and hair above forehead. LIBERTY is sharp and band edges are clear.

Reverse: High points of wreath and bow are worn, but all details are clearly defined.

Traces of mint luster may still show.

**VERY FINE** Light to moderate even wear. All major features are sharp.

**VF-30** Choice

Obverse: Wear spots show on leaves, cap, hair and cheek. Bottom row of leaves is weak but has some visible details. LIBERTY and band are complete.

Reverse: Wear shows on the two bottom leaves but most details are

visible. Nearly all the details in the ribbon bow and corn kernels are clear.

**VF-20** Typical

Obverse:

Over half the details still show in leaves. Hair worn but bold. Every letter in LIBERTY is visible.

Reverse:

The ribbon is worn, but some details are visible. Half the details in leaves are clear. Bottom leaves and upper stalks show wear spots.

**FINE** Moderate to heavy even wear. Entire design is clear and bold.

**F-12** Obverse: Some details show in hair, cap, and facial features. All letters in LIBERTY are weak but visible. Upper row of leaves is outlined, but bottom row is worn smooth.

Reverse:

Some details in the lower leaf clusters are plainly visible. Bow is outlined but flat. Letters in legend are worn but clear.

**VERY GOOD** Well worn. Design clear but flat and lacking details.

**VG-8** Obverse: Entire head weak, and most of the details in the face are worn smooth. Three letters in LIBERTY are clear. Rim is complete.

Reverse:

Wreath shows only a small amount of detail. Corn and grain are flat. Some of the bow is very weak.

**GOOD** Heavily worn. Design and legend visible but faint in spots.

**G-4** Obverse: Entire design well worn with very little detail remaining. Legend is weak but visible. LIBERTY is worn away.

Reverse:

Wreath is worn flat but is completely outlined. Corn and grains are worn nearly smooth.

**ABOUT GOOD** Outlined design. Parts of date and legend worn smooth.

**AG-3** Obverse: Head is outlined with nearly all details worn away. Date readable but partially worn away. Legend merging into rim.

Reverse:

Entire wreath partially worn away and merging into rim.

Note: New Orleans issues, in particular, are occasionally softly struck.

1907-O Liberty's brow and hair are very softly struck.

## BARBER QUARTERS & HALVES

**ABOUT UNCIRCULATED** Small trace of wear visible on highest points.

AU-55 Choice

Obverse: Only a trace of wear shows on highest points of hair below BER in LIBERTY.

Reverse: A trace of wear shows on head, tip of tail and tips of wings.

Three-quarters of the mint luster is still present.

AU-50 Typical

Obverse: Traces of wear show on cheek, tips of leaves, and hair below LIBERTY.

**EXTREMELY FINE** Very light wear on only the highest points.

EF-45 Choice

Obverse: Slight wear shows on high points of upper leaves, cheek, and hair above forehead. LIBERTY is sharp and band edges are bold.

Reverse: High points of head, neck, wings and talons lightly worn. Lines in center tail feathers are clearly defined.

Part of the luster is still present.

EF-40 Typical

Obverse: Light wear shows on leaves, cheek, cap and hair above forehead. LIBERTY is sharp and band edges are clear.

Reverse: High points of head, neck, wings, and tail are lightly worn, but all details are clearly defined. Leaves show trace of wear at edges.

Traces of mint luster may still show.

**VERY FINE** Light to moderate even wear. All major features are sharp.

VF-30 Choice

Obverse: Wear spots show on leaves, cap, hair and cheek. Bottom row of leaves is weak but has some visible details. LIBERTY and band are complete. Folds in cap are distinct.

Reverse: Wear shows on shield but all details are visible. Most of the details in neck and tail are clear. Motto is complete.

VF-20 Typical

Obverse: Over half the details still show in leaves. Hair and ribbon worn but bold. Every letter in LIBERTY is visible. On Halves, bottom folds in cap are full.

Reverse: The shield is worn, but most details are visible. Half the

details in feathers are clear. Wings and legs show wear spots. Motto is clear.

**FINE** Moderate to heavy (considerable on Halves) even wear. Entire design clear and bold.

F-12    Obverse: Some details show in hair, cap, and facial features. All letters in LIBERTY are weak but visible. Upper row of leaves is outlined, but bottom row is worn nearly smooth. Rim is full and bold.  
Reverse: Half of the feathers are plainly visible. Wear spots show in center of neck, motto, and arrows. Horizontal shield lines are merged; vertical lines are separated. Letters in legend are worn but clear.

**VERY GOOD** Well worn. Design clear but flat and lacking details.

VG-8    Obverse: Entire head weak, and most details in face are worn smooth (Heavily worn on Halves). Three letters in LIBERTY are clear. Rim is complete.  
Reverse: Eagle shows only a small amount of detail. Arrows and leaves are flat. Most of the shield is very weak. Part of the eye (and motto on Halves) is visible.

**GOOD** Heavily worn. Design and legend visible but faint in spots.

G-4    Obverse: Entire design well worn with very little detail remaining. Legend is weak but visible. LIBERTY is worn away.  
Reverse: Eagle worn flat but is completely outlined. Ribbon worn nearly smooth. Legend weak but visible. Rim worn to tops of letters.

**ABOUT GOOD** Outlined design. Parts of date and legend worn smooth.

AG-3    Obverse: Head is outlined with nearly all details worn away. Date readable but partially worn away. Legend merging into rim.  
Reverse: Entire design partially worn away and legend merges with rim.

Note on Quarters: Most New Orleans and Denver issues are softly struck, particularly on the eagle's left claw.

Note on Halves: New Orleans issues, in particular, are occasionally softly struck.

1906-O and 1908-O Halves exhibit a swelling appearance extending from the lower cheek area down through the jaw and neck of Liberty.

## QUESTION & ANSWER COLUMN

Questions on Barber coinage should be submitted directly to the Publisher, BCCS, P. O. Box 5353, Akron, OH 44313. The Publisher will attempt to get answers from specialists on all questions. Some answers may take time to find and they will be printed in future issues.

**Q. I have searched, without success, to locate and purchase an uncirculated example of an 1893/2 Barber dime. The Red Book, Guide to U.S. Coins, Prices & Value Trends and Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins all list specific prices realized for transactions involving this particular coin, yet when I inquire from several dealers as to the coin's availability, all uniformly state that the coin does not exist. I would appreciate any information regarding this matter.**

**A.** As you mention, the 93/2 Barber dime is listed in a number of major numismatic publications. It was discovered by Walter Breen in the early 60's. The American Numismatic Association's Certification Service (ANACS) acknowledges that there is something under the "3" in the date, but are uncertain as to what it is. They admit it could be a "2", but speculate it could also be a repunched 3, or even a die chip. If one were sent in to ANACS for certification, they say they would photo certify it as an 1893 dime, and attach a letter to the effect that this is a dime similar to the one referred to as an 1893/2 overdate.

I talked to some dealers about it, and apparently there are two schools of thought. There are those that don't feel it is a variety, and therefore, say it does not exist and hence, is not available. There are those other dealers, however, who agree that it is a variety of some sort and, as ANACS, refer to it as a variety similar to the one attributed in the various numismatic price guides. Those dealers who recognize it as a variety say it is rare, but available from time to time. They also say that if one is presented for sale, a buyer contemplating its purchase who is not familiar with varieties should first have it independently verified.

It is possible the coin could come under further study in the future. Whatever its outlook, the coin, when discovered, trades at a significant premium over its common date counterpart. It appears that to even prove it is not a 3 over 2, it would have to be proven something else is under the 3, which of course is also not normal. Therefore, it's likely the coin will retain its premium value and continue to be considered a rarity. A case in point is the famous 1869/8 Indian cent overdate which is now attributed to be a 9 over 9. It still carries a premium, regardless of the change in its original attribution.

In any event, the controversy surrounding the dime thought to be a 93/2 overdate, makes it an item worthy of continued numismatic attention.

**An In-Depth Look At Barbers**  
**By Gene B. Edwards**  
**With a Forward from the Publisher**

As the decade of the '70's came to a close, Barber coinage was beginning to receive some attention. They were commanding higher prices at auctions and more information was being written about them. One of the most notable pieces of information on Barbers to come out of the 70's was a series of articles on each denomination by the late Gene B. Edwards that appeared in the *Coin Dealer Newsletter* (CDN) from December, 1977 through April, 1979. Thanks to Ron Downing, Publisher of CDN, we have been given permission to share some of Mr. Edward's insights into the coinage that bears the name of our Society.

The articles provided a combination of history, design, striking characteristics, scarcity, grading and values of the various dates and mints of the Barber series, focusing mostly on uncirculated specimens. Because so much has changed in grading standards and values over the decade since these articles appeared, I have edited out grading criteria and coin values associated with that period. For any member that may want this information, they are available for a small processing charge direct from CDN at P. O. Box 11099, Torrance, CA 90510.

Gene Edwards began collecting coins at the age of 14, and was thoroughly involved in the hobby during his entire Army career. As a retired military officer, he became a full-time coin dealer in 1974. He personally collected Barbers and became a recognized authority on the various aspects of the coinage.

### **BARBER DIMES**

#### **The Design**

As with the quarter and half dollar of the same design, the obverse shows Ms. Liberty's head with crowned wreath facing right and surrounded by relief fields--thereby placing the device higher than its protective surfaces. This design leaves the device very vulnerable to all forms of distraction such as stacking marks, slide marks and hairlines--all of which are the Nemesis of the collector who is seeking the near-perfect Barber dime. The reverse is a carry-over of the reverse of Christian Gobrecht's Seated Liberty dime--a wreath of grain tied with ribbon and bow at the base. Of the three series, the dimes have long been the most popularly collected and most avidly sought.

**Strike:** For the most part, all dates and mintmarks of this series were well struck and, with the notable exception of the 1907-O (where Ms. Liberty's brow and hair are virtually non-existent on most specimens that I have seen), strong fully-struck detail is the rule rather than the exception. I would further venture that, other than the rarities, one could acquire any date in this group in fully struck condition. You need not settle for a below average striking as long as your time and money hold out.

**Surfaces:** Here we have a completely different story. As is true of all

Barber denominations, the obverse device--by simple virtue of the design--is prey to the most insidious marks, hairlines and scratches. Marks made from stacking and small abrasions caused in manufacture and handling usually account for any impairment to the surfaces of gem coins. Mishandling and improper storage by collectors, however, is the prime source of impairment to coins and one must constantly guard against *honest* overgrading because one cannot see the minor faint hairlines which may be present on the obverse device. Personally, I prefer original toned coins over brilliant pieces, but either is simply a matter of taste. The surface texture of this series runs the complete gamut from full frosty cameo against frosty fields--through satin and semi-prooflike--to deep mirror prooflike fields with cameo devices. Make no mistake about it...this little coin is one of the most beautiful and most popular ever minted and when a particular date is found in the ultimate, near-perfect condition, it is most certainly a proud possession to its new owner! To repeat, unlike the quarter and half dollar, most dates and mintmarks in the Barber dime series can be found in near perfect condition. One must have a great deal of time, money and patience, but it can be done--perhaps that is one of the reasons for the popularity of this series.

The choice to gem uncirculated Barber dime will be virtually markfree, it will be fully struck--and whether brilliant or toned--it will exhibit full blazing luster for the date and mintmark and the type of surface texture the individual coin possesses. Normally, if original, the coin will give off an overall cameo appearance whether frosty, satin or proof-like. That is to say, the devices will be distinctly different in surface luster and texture from the surrounding fields. This creates a rather stunning and a most pleasing appearance.

## BARBER QUARTERS

### The Design

The extremely long life of Gobrecht's Seated Liberty design had begun to bore the American public and the desire for a newly designed metallic masterpiece was eventually communicated to the government. By 1890, multitudes of aspiring designers were submitting their "brainchildren" to the Treasury with the hopes of the immortality which would be engendered by their initials on the Coin of the Realm--only to have their dreams shattered as the omnipotent Charles Barber, seated at his desk in the Philadelphia Mint, rejected and deposited those ideas in the handiest trash receptacles.

Barber's rejection of each and every submission, did not, however, stop the clamor for new coinage. So, Barber solved the problem with a simplistic design which was not only accepted, but became one of the most popular designs of U.S. coins. Upon close examination we note that the obverse is merely a reversal of the Morgan Dollar design with some very minor changes--while the reverse "strangely" resembles the Heraldic Eagle reverse of the early Bust type coinage. Some may, with good reason, doubt Mr. Barber's talent for innovative design. As an interesting aside, 1892--the first year of the design, saw two types of reverse (which is a little known fact except to the quarter specialist--but worth mentioning) *Type I*, in which the Eagle's left wing tip covers less than half of the "E" in UNITED and the later *Type II* (which be-

came standard) where the left wing tip covers most of the "E" including the middle serif, with just the tip of the upper and lower serifs completely visible. This reverse duplicity appears on all Mints of 1892, and frankly the reason for the change is befuddling. The Type I reverse is obviously scarce--but not rare. Another minor design change occurred in 1901, when a new obverse hub was introduced, in which the leaves are slightly larger and longer and the berries are also larger. Unfortunately, the reverse seems to have suffered from this change, since from this point on, even Philadelphia Mint specimens become more elusive in full strike.

**Surfaces:** Whether your taste lies in brilliant frosty coins or original toned examples of this series, one of the major problems in this series (and all of the coins of this design) is the fact that Liberty's cheek is high on the obverse of the coin--and therefore very vulnerable. Marks from stacking or handling at the mint are quite common and account for most of the small abrasions which plague this series.

**Strike:** Here again, the Barber quarter fell on hard times at certain of the Mints--most noticeably at the New Orleans and Denver branches. Additionally, we find considerable differences in quality of strike from year to year *at the same mint*. Even in the Philadelphia mint issues striking will vary. As an example, the strike from 1892 through 1901 is usually excellent, exhibiting full star radials and full claws on the eagle--however, as we go from 1902 through 1916, the strike seems to become progressively indifferent.

Most New Orleans and Denver pieces are softly struck, particularly on the eagle's notoriously weak left claw; fully struck specimens, when available from these branches, invariably bring a substantial premium. In most instances the San Francisco issues are well struck--but again we find a good deal less than perfection from this branch from 1902 until the end of the design life. (As an aside, some magnificent semi and fully prooflike specimens have surfaced from this mint.) Obviously, coins exhibiting full radials in the stars, fully defined hair at Liberty's brow and full cross-hatching on the eagle's feet are most desirable. However, I will be the first to acknowledge that there are dates which I strongly believe will never be located in Gem FULLY STRUCK condition!

## BARBER HALF DOLLARS

### Overview

Barber half dollars are probably the most undervalued and difficult of the twentieth century series to assemble by date and mintmark in Fully Struck gem mint state!

Four years of compilation, charting, research and trending of auction sales, bourse floors and major private treaties of the various dates in this long overlooked and undervalued series has been a challenge and source of many frustrations, all leading to the above inescapable conclusion. It most certainly has been a task with rewards equal to the frustrations!

Aside from the normal problems inherent in Mr. Barber's design, the size and mint misuse of it exposed this series to multiple inadequacies as well as a myriad of mishandling conditions.

It would seem, that as a series, every possible mishap befell the Barber half dollar. Finding the perfect or near perfect specimen of many dates has proven to be all but impossible! Regardless of one's willingness "to pay the price", fully struck superb gems of some dates just do not surface. In some instances it has been necessary to throw away the normal rules of thumb and apply some very stringent and carefully researched latitude to the grading of certain dates in order to price them. Grading of course, is the most vital area; with the grade comes the value we attach to the coin.

I will examine the Mint State grades as applicable to the various dates and mint marks. Therefore, a good deal of explanation will be necessary and a full and complete understanding of the complexities of the design, the mintage procedures and the ultimate results of the striking of this coin are essential.

First, I must caution you that this grade lends itself to much abuse! A choice BU coin is just that ... it is not just an UNC. This coin is better than MS-60 and not quite MS-65, due to luster, strike or marks. However, I must stress that a soft strike will not lower the grade on an uncirculated specimen. A truly mint state price will be that regardless of strike, just as a fully struck coin, with rub or friction, will not miraculously become an UNC!

Do not fall into the "strike" trap. Many of the dates in this series are poorly struck, particularly on the reverse at the Eagle's claws and the upper right quadrant at shield and wing.

A choice coin will be lustrous, devoid of heavy abrasions and most certainly will not have been subjected to gross mishandling such as improper cleaning. Note, particularly, the high points of Ms. Liberty's cheek for polishing, "slide" marks from passage of album slides, or any attempts at abrasive cleaning.

To highlight this point, I recall a complete collection of the Barber coin series which was acquired a year or so ago. The collection had been kept in old National holders. Certain magnificent original coins were noted in pencil on the boards for "burnishing" or "to be cleaned". The complete series of dimes, quarters and half dollars had been completed in 1955 and the collector was quite partial to fully brilliant coins. As a result, he had attempted to clean an insignificant number of dimes and quarters, but had apparently begun with the halves and had destroyed the obverse surfaces of those coins. Imagine a run of Barber half dollars with mint state 65-65© reverses and obverses grading about MS-55! Here we have a classic case of mishandling and truly a great loss--a loss of money to the seller and a great misfortune to the hobby since some of the better dates were the best I had ever seen!

Due to the hodge-podge of conditions under which most coins of this series were struck, the indifferent quality of the strike of most mints, and the fact of gross misuse and abuse of the entire series, I must stress surface quality in grading. Strike must therefore become secondary, particularly in the Mint State area.

Surface types of this series offer a great range of finishes, from frost to varying degrees of satin and semi-prooflike through deep mirror prooflike cameos. Some of the earlier dates, notably from 1894 through 1899, are nearly always seen from semi-prooflike to fully P/L and, if original, are quite stunning. Many exhibit high "knife edge" rims and cameo devices which has led to the on-going abuse of such descriptions as "Branch Mint Proof", "Presentation", or "VIP Striking", etc.

**Strike:** This is the great problem area of most dates in this series. From the inception in 1892 throughout the last year of issue, this coin seems to have been struck with an indifferent attitude. I have examined 1892-P specimens which totally contradict the conclusion that all those coins were fully struck--they were definitely inferior in all aspects. Yet, some New Orleans issues seemed to have enjoyed a great deal more care and many of the San Francisco coins appear to have been afforded a greater degree of quality control by the director, Mr. Daggett, and they are generally appealing coins with excellent strikes.

The areas of greatest concern seem to be the obverse wreath or crown and the brow of Ms. Liberty, as well as the corresponding areas on the reverse at the Eagle's claws and the upper right portion of the shield and wing. Normally, most other areas of the coin appear to be well struck, including most of the stars at the obverse border. I have examined some fully prooflike coins which were not fully struck. There are some dates which I have never seen with full claws and shield, and it is entirely possible that they do not exist in that condition in gem Mint State.

I'm afraid this will explode some of the myths about mintage and its relation to price and rarity, but, unequivocally, the rarest dates of this series in gem fully struck condition (or, I might add, near fully struck condition) are, in my opinion, listed in descending order thusly: 1900-O, 1901-O, 1905-O, 1904-O, 1902-O, 1903-O, 1907-O, 1896-O, 1897-O, 1902-S, 1903-S-- with the low mintage 1901-S next in line. The 1913 and 1915 Philadelphia issues would probably fall next and so the list continues. The 1914-P, though the lowest regular mintage of the series, due to hoarding, is around at a price!

An interesting die situation exists with many of the 1906-O and 1908-O halves. Specifically, whether due to improper striking, planchet preparation, or die buckling, many of the coins of these dates exhibit what has come to be known as the "mumps" variety. The variety derives its name from the large lumpy area extending from the lower cheek area down through the jaw and neck of Ms. Liberty, giving the device the appearance of swelling. This die state rarely appears in any other dates and I have never seen it on any but New Orleans issues.

## BCCS AT ANA General Meeting

Our Society's first general meeting was held at the Summer ANA Convention in Pittsburgh on August 11th. Although the turnout of twenty was considered respectable, I received feedback that more would have been in attendance had our meeting not conflicted with others. I promised to work as closely as possible with the Convention schedulers in the future to avoid such conflicts.

At the meeting we reported that paid memberships had reached 266 (now over 300 at time of publication of this Journal).

We have estimated that putting out four Journals per year will cost \$6,000. At our present membership level and anticipated advertising, we're 2/3 of the way there. It is further estimated that the Society will be in a break-even position with 500 members. Therefore, considerably more members or many more ads would be required to cover all expenses.

Members in attendance at the meeting were polled on their ideas on how to best balance the Society's Treasury. The general consensus was that if we weren't in balance by the Winter, '90 Journal, we should go to three issues per year or raise the dues. It is my express desire to keep dues at \$8 as long as possible, and to continue putting our four issues per year. I am very optimistic that membership levels will continue to rise and ads will be placed that will have our Treasury balanced by year end.

Members can help by soliciting new memberships and promoting the placement of ads amongst the dealers they use.

The results from the first rarity rating survey on circulated Barber dimes was discussed. Several members suggested that when the Society has more members (perhaps 500) that the survey be rerun. This time, the focus would be on the number of actual dates held in personal collections, as opposed to "sightings". Any glaring differences would subsequently be merged into one survey. The members present felt we had gotten off to a very good start on our rarity guide.

It was also agreed that a society photo library would be developed where members could borrow pictures of Barbers for exhibits or some other related purpose. I would appreciate any volunteers to help start the library.

Dave Lawrence previewed his new book on Barber quarters and donated three copies to the Society's soon-to-be-developed library. We will be soliciting for more Barber-related books and will now have to set up some sort of way for members to borrow books from the library. Any ideas from members are very welcome.

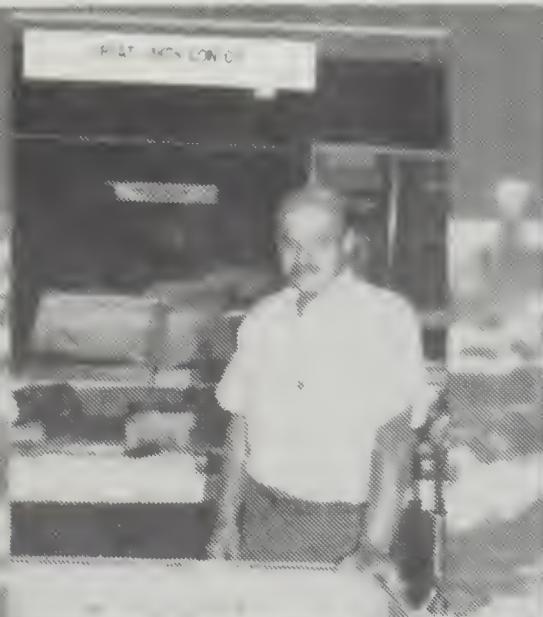
One member mentioned that when he sent to Coin World for their "1989 Guide to U.S. Coins, Prices & Values Trends Book", they said the BCCS member discount announced in the previous Journal was not available. I had previously reached this agreement with Coin World and subsequently told

them of the problem our member had. They looked into it, and per Debby Madison, Circulation Manager, confirmed in writing that future orders will honor the \$3.60 rate.

Finally, I told the group that it is my express desire to get more members involved in helping run the Society. What I think our Society needs now are three people, one each for the East, Central and Western sections of the country, to help raise new memberships in their part of the country, and to act as conduits for ads, articles, and other related Society matters. What we also need, is a group of contributing editors, each of whom have a specialty area. So the jobs of Vice President, Eastern, Central and Western Regions are being solicited, as well as those of contributing editors. Anyone interested should contact the Publisher, BCCS. As we grow, we will rotate these positions among volunteer members.

The meeting was adjourned with the announcement that the next general meeting will be at the FUN show in Tampa, Florida, next January.





## New Discoveries From Walter Breen

Publisher's Preface: In the field of numismatic literature, Walter Breen is undeniably one of the foremost authorities in the world. His many books have significantly advanced our knowledge and enjoyment of coins. His most recent literary achievement, "The Complete Encyclopedia of U.S & Colonial Coins", is an incredible work that documents the many varieties of every single U.S. coin minted.

Varieties are an area of interest for a growing number of our members. For those who may not be familiar with a variety, a simple explanation is in order.

In a perfect world, the coin minting process would produce every coin an exact likeness of the next. There would be no variations at all. Unfortunately, just like in the consumer products we buy, quality breaks down and unintentional differences, or varieties, occur. In many cases, these differences are barely noticeable, and the coin escapes into circulation. In the early days of U.S. coinage, there were many such varieties resulting from much less sophisticated coining equipment. Considerable collector interest has sprung up around varieties, and they are both studied and collected in many forms. Varieties include overdates, off-center strikes, rotated reverses, missing mintmarks or stars, the wrong-sized mintmarks, and many others. Finding and documenting such varieties has become a detective hunt for many, that actually traces back to how the variety occurred.

What is so remarkable about Walter Breen's latest book, is that he has recorded every documented variety of each U.S. coin. This is obviously no simple achievement. It has also spurred others to help Walter add to his work, and several BCCS members have already written of new discoveries. Walter himself is keeping his own record of new discoveries to someday update his work, and he has graciously agreed to share some of them with our members, as they relate to Barbers.

What follows is in two parts. First, Walter discusses new discoveries that are caused by the dies used to strike the coin. In those cases, the variety is not in the die, but occurs if something goes wrong in the coining process. The same die, therefore, can create correctly and incorrectly struck coins. In the second part, he talks about new discoveries caused by the hubs themselves. Hubs are hard metal (typically steel) punches that are used to produce the dies. Therefore, a variety caused by a hub is imprinted in a die, which causes every coin created by that die to have the same variety. Walter is also calling on BCCS members to help identify the scarcity of certain hubs, similar to our search for the identification of rare dates. With this background, more of our members should be able to appreciate the new discoveries that follow.

### PART I - DIE VARIETIES

Dimes: 1906 Double date, plainest at 6.

1906 Double 9. Two rev. dies: one with D plainly repunched

east, one with normal D.

908 S Double date, first punched far to left, partly effaced. Part of the outer r. curve of extra 9 shows from knob through upper left inner loop; loops of extra 8 at upper left within loops of 8.

Quarters: 1892 O Type II, mintmark normally placed. Doubled obv. die, plainest at motto. Look at tops of D WE TR and within base of U. 1) Brian Greer, found at 1987 ANA. 2) Jack Beymer.

1894 O Mintmark far to r. Jack Beymer has one with plainly repunched mintmark.

Half Dollars: 1892 Tripled rev. die, plainest at HALF DOLLAR (look at serifs), leaves arrows. Discovered by Guy Araby, Nov. 1988. (This coin was cherrypicked from a Whitman album where it had remained since about 1948.) ANACS GZF 039.

Now to the challenging part: surveying how many of old and new hubs you people have. Only this way can we figure out how rare the hub varieties are. Please look through your holdings and tell BCCS Journal how many you have of each of the following; not all combinations may exist:

## PART II - HUB VARIETIES

### Dimes

1901 Obv. and rev. type of 1900. (N touches ribbon, short leaf far below final S; thin r. ribbon end, no extra fold on underside.) Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 Obv. type of 1902, rev. type of 1900. (N away from ribbon; long leaf below final S nearly touching it.) Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 Obv. and rev. type of 1902. Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 O Obv. and rev. type of 1900.

1901 O Obv. type of 1900, rev. type of 1902.

1901 O Obv. type of 1902, rev. type of 1900.

1901 O Obv. and rev. type of 1902.

1901 S Obv. and rev. type of 1900.

1901 S Obv. type of 1900, rev. type of 1902.

1901 S Obv. type of 1902, rev. type of 1900.

1901 S Obv. and rev. type of 1902.

1902 Rev. type of 1900. Specify Proof or business strike.

1902 Rev. type of 1902. Specify Proof or business strike.

1902 O Rev. type of 1900.

1902 O Rev. type of 1902.

1902 S Rev. type of 1900.

1902 S Rev. type of 1902.

1903 Rev. type of 1900. Specify Proof or business strike.

1903 Rev. type of 1902. Specify Proof or business strike.

1903 O Rev. type of 1900.

1903 O Rev. type of 1902.

1903 S Rev. type of 1900.

1903 S Rev. type of 1902.

1904 Rev. type of 1900. Specify Proof or business strike.

1904 Rev. type of 1902. Specify Proof or business strike.

1904 S Rev. type of 1900.

1904 S Rev. type of 1902.

1905 Rev. type of 1900. Specify Proof or business strike.

1905 Rev. type of 1902. Specify Proof or business strike.

1905 O Rev. type of 1900

1905 O Rev. type of 1902. (Which type is the "Micro o"?)

1905 S Rev. type of 1900.

1905 S Rev. type of 1902.

## Quarters

1892 Type I. Specify Proof or business strike.

1892 Type II. Specify Proof or business strike.

1892 O Type I

1892 O Type II

1892 S Type I

1892 S Type II

1900 Obv. and rev. type of 1899. (Inner ribbon end forms rounded acute angle; 13th star points to lower edge of dentil. Rev. Wingtips do not extend beyond tops of E's; 2 dentils above I(CA).) Specify Proof or business strike.

1900 Obv. type of 1899, rev. type of 1901. (Wingtips extend beyond tops of E's; 1 dentil above I(CA).) Specify Proof or business strike.

1900 Obv. type of 1901, rev. type of 1899. (Inner ribbon end forms rounded obtuse angle; 13th star points to upper part of dentil.) Specify Proof or business strike.

1900 Obv. and rev. type of 1901. Specify Proof or business strike.

1900 O Obv. and rev. type of 1899.

1900 O Obv. type of 1899, rev. type of 1901.

1900 O Obv. type of 1901, rev. type of 1899.

1900 O Obv. and rev. type of 1901.

1900 S Obv. and rev. type of 1899.

1900 S Obv. type of 1899, rev. type of 1901.

1900 S Obv. and rev. type of 1901.

1900 S Obv. type of 1901, rev. type of 1899.

1901 Obv. and rev. type of 1899. Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 Obv. type of 1899, rev. type of 1901. Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 Obv. type of 1901, rev. type of 1899. Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 Obv. and rev. type of 1901. Specify Proof or business strike.

1901 O Obv. and rev. type of 1899.

1901 O Obv. type of 1899, rev. type of 1901.

1901 O Obv. type of 1901, rev. type of 1899.

1901 O Obv. and rev. type of 1901.

1901 S Obv. and rev. type of 1899. Does it exist?

1901 S Obv. type of 1899, rev. type of 1901. Does it exist?

1901 S Obv. type of 1901, rev. type of 1899. Does it exist?

1901 S Obv. and rev. type of 1901.

1902 Rev. type of 1899. Specify Proof or business strike.

1902 Rev. type of 1901. Specify Proof or business strike.

1902 O Rev. type of 1899.

1902 O Rev. type of 1901.

1902 S Rev. type of 1899.

1902 S Rev. type of 1901.

Any later dates or mintmarks with rev. type of 1899.

Later on, we'll need to do a similar survey for the various oddball varieties.

Best Wishes,

Walter Breen

Publishers Footnote: Input from members will be passed on to Walter Breen and, if enough interest is generated, will be published in a future issue. In the meantime, the Journal will continue to feature articles on varieties that result from member feedback.

## Proper Storage and Handling of Coins! By Elliot S. Goldman

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### Publishers Preface:

Buying accurately graded coins at a fair price is the goal of all. But once coins are in our possession, we must maintain their condition to protect the value of our investment, and provide the same joy to future owners. It is for that reason the Society feels it essential to periodically publish articles dealing with the handling and storage of coins.

Below is an article offering the opinions of Elliot S. Goldman. Mr. Goldman is the President of Allstate Coin Company and is also a member of BCCS.

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Reprinted from *Uncommon Cents*, published by "The San Diego Show, Inc.", June, 1989.

People spend lots of money on coins.

Dealers sell lots of coins to individuals.

What's wrong with the above statements? Nothing, except that the majority of those purchased coins will be ruined, due to improper handling and storage.

To properly store your coins, there are certain things to avoid at all costs:

- 1) Staples
- 2) Cardboard Holders
- 3) PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
- 4) Talking while holding a coin in your hand
- 5) Touching a coin anywhere but on the edges.

I will cover these one at a time:

1) Staples: I guarantee that if you constantly use 2 X 2 cardboard holders that are held together by staples, you are going to put a staple scratch on one of your coins. Even if you don't, why take a chance? Many people store coins in 2 X 2 boxes that hold the cardboard flips. There's always the chance that the points of a staple, at the back of one flip, can scratch the obverse of the coin in the holder behind it. How many of you have seen really nice coins, but noticed a staple scratch on that coin, and have thought to yourself, "What a shame?" How do you think that scratch got there? Staples!!

2) Cardboard Holders: Besides needing staples to hold cardboard holders together, cardboard itself is a problem. Cardboard means cardboard DUST. Have you ever seen a copper or nickle coin with a black spot? That spot very often is caused by a speck of cardboard dust. A single speck of dust, left on a coin for six months to a year, will cause such a spot, which can't be removed. How would you like to spend \$1,000 on a coin and a year later find that the

coin is worth only \$300, because it now has a black spot on it?

3) Polyvinyl Chloride: PVC is a chemical compound which softens plastic. It helps to make flexible plastic coin holders (or flips) more durable and able to lie down nice and flat in showcases. Unfortunately, the PVC in the plastic breaks down and puts a nice, green slime on the coin, which then eats away at the lustre and metal of the coin. Even if the coin is kept in "Kointain" before it is put into the flip, the PVC emits a hydrochloric acid. No need to ask me what acid does! Why would anyone think of using such holders? Because they're easier to handle, or people just don't know the consequences.

4) Talking While Holding a Coin In Your Hands: When you talk, you give off microscopic bits of spittle. If you talk over a copper coin, a year later you will see lots of black "flyspecks" on the coin. However, collector's buy copper coins all the time without knowing how they were handled before buying them!

5) Handling a Coin Anywhere But On the Edges: Many individuals, including dealers who should know better, will touch a coin on areas other than the edges. If not remedied, in about six months a fingerprint will appear on the coin, which will never come off. Be very careful when handling coins.

By now, you are probably asking yourself, "How do I know if my coins are contaminated; how should I store them?" The answers are very easy. If you don't know whether they've been contaminated, there is a chemical available named Trichlorotrifluoroethane (commonly called "Dissolve"). Through careful use, "Dissolve" can remove many of these contaminants without hurting toning or lustre.

The best way to store coins is to avoid all of the above "don'ts." Use holders that are totally inert. There are mylar flips that contain no PVC and hard lucite holders that are good, but more expensive. What we at Allstate Coin Co. use are 2 X 2 holders which are imported from Sweden. They are totally inert, display the coin nicely and, most important, completely protect the coin.

Remember, besides protecting your investment, you have an obligation to yourself, and future owners, to hand the coin down to future generations in the same condition in which you received it.

### **NEXT BCCS MEETING AT FUN**

The Barber Coin Collectors' Society has recently joined FUN and will hold its next general meeting at FUN's annual convention in Tampa, Florida next January. A date, time, and meeting place will be assigned.

Our meeting will enable those members from around Florida and others coming to the show to attend, and is part of our Society's objective to hold meetings around the country. FUN is one of the major shows and will give more collectors and dealers an opportunity to learn of our organization.

## Barber Bibliography Update

Below are additional articles on Barbers that can be added to the Barber Bibliography listing published in BCCS, Volume I, #1 earlier this year.

Julian, R. W., "Barber Coinage Blazed New Trail In Design Selection", *Numismatic News*, V. 36, No. 17, April 26, 1988, p. 13-14, ill.

Julian, R. W., "Barber Money : Long Respected Coinage That Struggled For Life", *Coinage*, V. 23, No. 7, July, 1987, p. 20-21, 24, 122, ill.

Thompson, Robert, "A Coin For Everybody : Collectors and Investors Are Attracted To The Barber Half Dollar", *Coins*, V. 34, No. 1, (January, 1987), p. 50-52, ill.

### CIRCULATED BARBER DIME RARITY RATING PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to the many responses from club members and Barber dealer specialists from across the country, we are now able to report the results of our Society's circulated Barber dime Rarity Rating Survey. Not only were we able to benefit from the many mailed-in responses, but we received much information at the ANA Convention in Pittsburgh, as well.

We found a great deal of consistency in the individual survey results, many of which varied only slightly between submissions. Contributing to this was that most respondents appeared to provide ratings for only those dates and grades with which they were familiar, which reduced the number of guesses.

We are treating these results as preliminary, giving our readers an opportunity to review the total survey results before they are considered complete. Final results will be published in the next Journal, and any changes noted. Changes will only be made if there is a significant pattern to the responses for any of the dates. Once the final results are published, they will become part of the Society's Official Record.

As the Barber series continues to receive more attention and more coins are passed between dealers and collectors, the Society will re-survey the numismatic community to determine if any of the rarity ratings have changed. In the meantime, we hope that all who buy or sell Barber coinage will find the Rarity Rating guide a useful tool.

Society members can look next for a Rarity Rating Survey for circulated Barber quarters, which is scheduled for publication in the Winter, 1990 Journal.

**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
CIRCULATED BARBER DIME RARITY RATINGS  
PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS**

**Ratings Definition of Rarity Ratings**

R1 - *Common*: Readily available.

R2 - *Less Common*: Available at most shows, but in limited quantity.

R3 - *Scarce*: Somewhat difficult to find, only a few likely to be found at larger shows.

R4 - *Very Scarce*: May or may not find any at large shows. On most Collector want lists.

R5 - *Rare*: Unlikely more than 5 may appear at larger shows or auctions in a year's time.

R6 - *Very Rare*: Almost never found. One may not appear for sale in a year's time.

R7 - *Prohibitively Rare*: Only one may appear for sale every few years.

R8 - *Unique*: Or almost so.

	G/VG	F/VF	XF/AU		G/VG	F/VF	XF/AU
1892	R1	R1	R1				
1892-O	R2	R2	R2	1905	R1	R1	R1
1892-S	R3	R4	R4	1905-O	R2	R3	R4
1893	R1	R1	R2	1905-o	R2	R4	R7
1893/2	N/A	N/A	R4	1905-S	R2	R2	R2
1893-O	R3	R4	R4	1906	R1	R1	R1
1893-S	R2	R2	R4	1906-D	R2	R2	R3
1894	R2	R3	R4	1906-O	R2	R3	R4
1894-O	R2	R3	R5	1906-S	R2	R3	R4
1894-S	R8	R8	R8	1907	R1	R1	R1
1895	R3	R4	R5	1907-D	R2	R2	R3
1895-O	R3	R4	R6	1907-O	R1	R2	R3
1895-S	R3	R3	R4	1907-S	R2	R2	R4
1896	R2	R3	R3	1908	R1	R1	R1
1896-O	R3	R4	R4	1908-D	R1	R1	R1
1896-S	R3	R4	R5	1908-O	R2	R3	R4
1897	R1	R1	R2	1908-S	R1	R2	R3
1897-O	R3	R4	R5	1909	R1	R1	R1
1897-S	R2	R3	R4	1909-D	R2	R3	R4
1898	R1	R1	R1	1909-O	R2	R2	R3
1898-O	R2	R3	R5	1909-S	R2	R3	R5
1898-S	R2	R3	R4	1910	R1	R1	R1
1899	R1	R1	R1	1910-D	R1	R2	R3
1899-O	R2	R3	R4	1910-S	R2	R3	R5
1899-S	R2	R2	R3	1911	R1	R1	R1
1900	R1	R1	R1	1911-D	R1	R1	R1
1900-O	R3	R4	R5	1911-S	R2	R2	R3
1900-S	R1	R2	R2	1912	R1	R1	R1
1901	R1	R1	R1	1912-D	R1	R1	R1
1901-O	R2	R3	R3	1912-S	R1	R2	R2
1901-S	R3	R4	R5	1913	R1	R1	R1
1902	R1	R1	R1	1913-S	R2	R3	R4
1902-O	R2	R3	R3	1914	R1	R1	R1
1902-S	R2	R2	R4	1914-D	R1	R1	R1
1903	R1	R1	R1	1914-S	R2	R2	R4
1903-O	R2	R2	R2	1915	R1	R1	R1
1903-S	R3	R4	R5	1915-S	R2	R3	R4
1904	R1	R1	R1	1916	R1	R1	R1
1904-S	R2	R3	R4	1916-S	R1	R1	R1

## Letters to the Editor

Letters from members are welcome and will be published as space permits. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or omit material in accordance with Society by-laws.

The publication of letters is not necessarily an endorsement by the Society of a particular opinion held by a member. Also, members claiming new discoveries should be willing to permit personal examination of such discoveries by a recognized authority so as to add weight to its validity. Arrangements for such examinations can be made through the Publisher.

Finally, letter writers will not be identified unless they give permission when submitting their letter.

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First of all, I'm enjoying #2 and I'm less than 2/3 done!! I was extremely pleased about the size of the Journal.

As I was reading the Journal (in between the work I brought home!), I came across the reprint of David Lange's article. As I'm interested in varieties and Barbers, I naturally delved in! Although I have very few Barbers (I'm trying to build an accumulation), I remembered that I had purchased a 1900 VF/XF quarter. I checked the obverse - alas, a Type 2. I resolutely looked at the reverse expecting a Type 3. Rubbing my eyes in disbelief, the lines didn't extend beyond the tops of the letters - a Type 2?! I grabbed my 1899 and my 1902S (the nearest dates to my 1900) and compared reverses. I then looked at my 1909D and 1914P. Sure enough, the 1900 has a Type 2 reverse (Just like the 1899P).

Apparently, the variety is unknown (at least to Lange) but I find it hard to believe it will turn out to be extremely rare.

I will be most interested in what other BCCS members discover. For now, I'll just sit around and enjoy the latest surprise coin collecting has given me!

Thank you!!

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Ever since the first coins were minted, there has been coin collecting. Coin collecting is not only collecting your favorite coins, but also the study of the fascinating history behind each coin. By studying this history, your collecting will be more interesting and the knowledge you gain will make your collection more valuable.

My favorite coin is the Barber dime with a spiked chin. This coin, which is not seen in Breen's book, is an 1898 Philadelphia Mint coin showing a die break from the chin.

The break shows a straight blob of metal protruding from the point of the

chin, pointing towards the last A in America. Its size is equal to one half the length and width of the one in the date.

To get a picture of what I'm describing, look in your Red book or Breen's book, at the 1804 spike chin half cent. The Barber spike chin is equal in width, but not quite as long and points down towards 5 o'clock, where the half cent points towards 3 o'clock.

I have looked through many coins and have only found two, one in AU and the other VF. One of these looks like an earlier die state, showing the protruding metal slightly thinner at the point of the break.

I hope this information will be helpful, as I feel this may be a major die variety, and time will tell if it shows up in other Barber dime collections.

Russell Easterbrooks

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I wanted to take a moment to respond to the letter from the coin dealer (Diary of a Barber Coin Dealer, BCCS, Volume I, #2, pg. 26) who did not wish to sign his/her name. This person did make some good points, but there is another side to this matter.

Many of the bigger dealers do not give customers the kind of breaks that would keep everyone happy. One has to be cognizant of the fact that some dealers always charge the highest that they can get for their coins. There is no Santa Claus in the field of rare coins.

If a dealer bought a 1904-S dime from a customer and paid only \$4.00 for it (let's assume that it is worth much more); he is still going to charge his "new" customer full-book (i.e., grey sheet price) for this dime. He is not going to let the piece go for 20% to 30% above what he paid for it!

In spite of assiduous efforts on the part of any customer, the dealer will rarely give a "popular" coin away for less than "bid." In the case of the 1904-S dime, the dealer will often charge 25% more than grey-sheet retail for the coin.

For my part, I want to pay what a coin is worth. If I do not pay what the coin is worth, the dealer goes out of business and no one gains anything!

Lastly, dealers are "driving" away the younger collectors from this hobby -- few of which will ever own a Barber dime. Collectors are going the way of the \$2.00 bill and the 50¢ piece!

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As a Charter Member, I feel we are completely remiss and unethical to publish an article setting up a dealers own opinion and grading standard. Most dealers in their ads usually state "B & D" and "ANA Grading Standards". We have two fine official standards - particularly the ANA Book. Dealers are not dictators.

As you can see by my ANA number, I have been collecting for 29 years and will never buy a "split grade" coin. Have always been taught that a coin is only as good as its poorest side. There may be exceptions in rare cases. However, in most cases, if you take a "split graded" coin to a dealer to sell, you will only get a price for the poorest grade.

I recently bid in a mail bid sale for an 1897-O Fine, Barber half dollar. Won with a bid of \$79, plus \$2.50 postage & handling. Was completely disappointed when I received the coin. The word Liberty on her crown on the obverse was as follows: li---ty. Immediately sent the coin back with a request for a properly graded coin or my money back. It cost me \$2.50 to send the coin back. No questions asked, they sent back my \$79, but it still cost me \$5 for the two-way postage. As I have had problems with their grading before, have now crossed them off my list.

Sorry to see our hobby following the pattern of so much of today's world with unethical, deceptive, and at times, downright dishonest dealings. Thank God for all our honest men and women.

**Publishers Note:** Universally accepted grading standards are so important to our Society's purpose that a considerable portion of this issue is dedicated to that topic. As this issue's editorial on grading indicates, ANA grading standards are important to the foundation of a universally-accepted grading system. Different striking characteristics of various dates and mints, however, are important to consider in grading a coin. The ANA standards themselves recognize this by noting striking peculiarities of certain dates and mints in their standard grade. Dave Lawrence's efforts on grading are intended simply to describe some additional striking peculiarities. They are intended to be complimentary to the ANA standards and are not meant to conflict in any way.

The above writer's concerns about consistent grading standards between dealers and collectors comes up frequently. Our Society is dedicated to the use of consistent grading standards for Barbers, and will eventually endorse a recommendation for dealers and collectors to follow. In the meantime, as the writer describes, it makes sense to give your business to those dealers who share your standards for grading.

## TREASURY REPORT

### Income:

Membership dues (302 members)	\$2,416.00
Advertising revenue	<u>480.00</u>

Total Income	\$2,896.00
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### Expenses:

Journal Printing*	\$3,239.06
Postage and mailing*	300.22
Other (Membership cards, etc.)	<u>175.00</u>

Total Expenses	\$3,714.28
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Balance/(Deficit)	(\$818.28)
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\* Includes actual cost of printing and mailing Spring and Summer Journal; and estimates those costs associated with the Fall Journal.

## BUYING:

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## Treasure Hunter Finds 1901-S Barber Quarter Near Home

Reprinted from *Coin World*, Wednesday, August 9, 1989.

Metal detecting enthusiast George Dare of Nesquehoning, PA, hit pay dirt when he unearthed a low mintage Barber quarter dollar in a wooded area near his home.

Dare said he was detecting in an area that used to be an old trail used to haul coal in the early 1900s. He dug two inches below the surface and discovered a 1901-S Barber quarter dollar. The coin has a mintage of 72,664.

Dare said he did not realize the value of his find when he read the date on the coin. "When I found it I was a little disappointed because it wasn't dated in the 1800s. After I came home I looked the date up in my 'Red Book' and saw that there was a rare one with an S on the back. I turned it over and sure enough there was an S there. I almost fell off my chair."

Dare said he feels lucky to have found the coin out of all the "millions of quarter dollars produced." He said he showed the coin to members of the Black Diamond Treasure Hunters Club of which he is a member.

"One of the club members who is a coin collector graded it as Very Good." the coin lists in *Coin World's* "Trends of U.S. Coins" in Very Good at \$1,150.

Dare said he is going to keep the coin. He said he has been metal detecting for two years, ever since his brother-in-law bought a detector to find his wife's ring. He said the silver quarter dollar is the first of that denomination in silver he has found in his two years of hunting.

## BUYING BARBER HALVES

	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>		<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>
1892	\$ 28	\$ 58	\$140	1898-O	\$ 35	\$ 85	\$245
1892-O	130	200	320	1898-S	25	55	150
1892-S	134	193	300	1899-O	27	64	170
1893-O	36	82	210	1900-O	25	60	190
1893-S	80	169	280	1901-O	28	75	220
1894	28	58	140	1901-S	40	120	310
1894-O	30	67	195	1902-S	27	55	150
1894-S	30	50	150	1903-O	23	47	140
1895-O	32	62	170	1903-S	25	52	160
1895-S	35	75	190	1904-O	28	77	230
1896	28	60	145	1904-S	40	105	300
1896-O	41	90	245	1907-S	26	55	195
1896-S	70	140	270	1909-O	27	65	200
1897-O	70	160	345	1910	30	70	170
1897-S	120	170	300	1913-D	24	43	130

-- N E E D   O T H E R S --

KEVIN LONERGAN

P. O. BOX 4234

HAMDEN, CT 06514

## BARBER BARTER

The Barber Barter section is available as a service to any society member at no cost. Its purpose is for trading Barber coins only. In order to accommodate everyone's ads, ads must be limited to 50 words per issue.

Send ads to: Publisher, BCCS Journal, P. O. Box 5353, Akron, OH 44313.

Ads received by September 1 will appear in the next issue. Deadline for future issues will be December 1, March 1 and June 1.

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Have(1) 1892-O quarter AU+ for trade. Contact Jimmy D. Stewart, P. O. Box 191, Sunnyside, GA 30284-0191

Am looking for quarters in medium grades (VG-VF) particularly the following dates: 1893-S, 1895-S, 1898-S, 1901-S. Have lots of doubles to trade (would trade the whole book for a VG-F 01-S). Please contact John Gardner, 840 Stevens Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Wanted - Barber coins, VF-BU with holes, plugs, bad scratches or other mutilating damage. Write to Lawrence N. Rogak, Box 547, Long Beach, NY 11561. Member ANA BCCS and LSCC.

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Need AU+ or UNC Barber half, any date. Will trade Barbers, other American coins. Write R. L. Findlay, 3903 N. Cincinnati, Spokane, WA 99207

1900-O .10¢. AU or better, needed complete AU Barber Dime Collection. No serious problems, but "cleaned" is O.K. Will trade my 1900-O XF plus cash to upgrade. Also need 1877 3c, impaired proof to proof 62. Mike Levin Box 1512 Boca Raton, FL 33429 407-451-4191

### COMING IN THE NEXT JOURNAL:

- Rarity Rating Survey For Circulated Barber Quarters
- Final Survey Results On Rarity Ratings For Circulated Barber Dimes
- A Collector's Defense of Barber - William Cregan
- Figuring Values For Those In-Between Grades (Circulated & Uncirculated)
- Other Articles, Ads & Barber Barter

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1892-S	MS63	PCGS*	*ONLY 8 GRADED IN ALL UNC GRADES	\$ 625.00
1893-S	MS63	PCGS	Also Low Population	475.00
1893-O	MS61	PCGS	Nice Toning	265.00
1897	MS62	PCGS	Nice	175.00
1898-O	MS63	PCGS	Well Struck, Nice Toning, Very Scarce	850.00
1899-O	MS63	PCGS	Very Low Population	750.00
1907-S	MS62	PCGS	Tough Date	275.00
1908-S	MS63	PCGS	Pretty Sea-Green Toning	475.00
1911-S	MS62	NGC	Flashy Coin	210.00
	MS63	PCGS	Nice	385.00
1913-S	MS63	PCGS	Low Mintage	675.00
1916	MS62	PCGS	Nice	175.00

**BARBER QUARTERS**

1893-S	MS62	PCGS	Toned, Very Scarce	\$ 425.00
1894-S	MS62	PCGS	PQ, Low Population	400.00
1894-O	MS63	PCGS	Nice Toning (o/o!)	700.00
1901-S	VG8	PCGS	Very Scarce	1250.00
1902-S	MS62	PCGS	Scarce	450.00
1903-O	MS62	PCGS	Very Flashy, PQ	525.00
1905-S	MS62	PCGS	Med. Brown Toning, Scarce	350.00
1905-O	MS63	PCGS	Tough Date & PQ!	840.00
1907	MS63	PCGS	Nice	525.00
1907-S	MS63	PCGS	Scarce	725.00
1909-O	MS62	PCGS	Very Scarce	825.00
1912-S	MS62	PCGS	Nice	375.00
	MS63	PCGS	Very Scarce	725.00

**BARBER HALVES**

1892-O	AU50	PCGS	Scarce	\$ 500.00
1896	PF63	PCGS	Beautiful Cameo!!	1500.00
1898-O	MS63	PCGS	Nice & Extremely Scarce	1975.00
1913-D	MS62	PCGS	PQ!	650.00

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Send the form below or copy the information on a separate sheet of paper and send along with your check or money order to: Membership, BCCS, P. O. Box 5353, Akron, OH 44313.

Join in 1989 and become a charter member.

### Barber Coin Collectors Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check the description that applies to you  Collector  Deale

My collection interests: \_\_\_\_\_

My name and address may  may not  be made available to other club members.

Dues - \$8.00 per calendar year. Those who join during the year will receive all journals published for that year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Change of Address:** To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your Journal in a timely fashion, please allow 6 weeks for a change of address. Send all address changes to: Membership Address Changes, BCCS, P. O. Box 5353, Akron, OH 44313.